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DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1956;

With the Annual Reports of (a) Senior Public Health Inspector
and (b) Engineer & Surveyor attached.



Council Offices,
Pulham Market,
Diss, Norfolk.

THE RURAL DISTRICT OF DEFWADE

The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, together with the Report of the Public Health Inspector for the year 1956.

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the Annual Report for 1956.

The general health of the District throughout the year continued to be very satisfactory. The birth and death rates compare favourably with those of England and Wales as a whole. The incidence of infectious diseases was comparatively low and there were no notified cases of dysentery or food-poisoning.

The year 1956 was memorable in that it marked a widespread, if limited, use of a vaccine for protection against poliomyelitis.

The implimentation of new housing schemes received a severe check as a result of financial restrictions; unfortunately it was also a year which started with the best intentions for the elimination of sub-standard houses in accordance with the requirements of the Rent and Repairs Act 1954. However, the building of Council houses to re-house those displaced from condemned property has received financial encouragement from the Ministry of Housing. Plans to improve or extend water supply and sewerage schemes were also affected by the financial difficulties of 1956; approval of any particular scheme depended largely on its urgency from the public health point of view.

Action was taken throughout the year to secure higher standards of food hygiene in food premises in accordance with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, in an attempt to reduce the mounting national incidence of food-borne disease. But legislation is not the final answer: personal care on the part of managers and employees is of the greatest importance and consumers, by demanding hygienic treatment of the food they purchase, can make a very valuable contribution to this problem.

The ever-widening field of public health activities has caused Parliament to change the title of "Sanitary Inspector" to that of "Public Health Inspector". The new title more aptly describes the various duties and responsibilities which the Inspector of today is required to accept and, more important still, it is a further indication in public health services of the shifting emphasis from the study of man's environment to the study of man himself in relation to the society in which he lives. That relationship is now receiving the same kind of attention as did man's physical afflictions in the early days of doctoring and is an explanation of the ever increasing interest in the subject of mental health. In this connection the following quotation is made from the Ministry of Health Annual Report, 1955:

"Many of the troubles besetting humanity have their origin in emotional disturbances and the science of mental health is beginning to evolve from a study of these phenomena. It must be admitted that many of our ideas on the subject are in that nebulous state which generally precedes the formation of more solid concepts. But, as knowledge grows, means of promoting mental health will be evolved and increasingly the emphasis will be placed on prevention rather than remedy".

There is little need to stress the ways by which a local authority, through its various activities, can make a significant contribution to promoting good mental health in the community which it serves.

II. Administration

Clerical assistance for your Medical Officer of Health is carried out by the Senior Clerk and staff at the Local Health Office, Norwich, while close touch is maintained with the Depwade office.

Mr.F.C.Weeks, M.R.S.I.,A.M.I.S.E., continued duty as Public Health Inspector to your Council throughout the year. Mr.W.F.Weller, M.S.I.A.,A.R.S.H., took up his duties as additional Public Health Inspector on 1st February 1956 and continued in this post for the remainder of the year.

III. Vital Statistics

(a) Population

The Registrar General estimates the population of Depwade Rural District at 18,040 compared with 18,170 in 1955.

(b) Births

There were 263 live births recorded during the year: 140 boys and 123 girls. In 1955 there were also 263 births. The crude birth rate for 1956 was, therefore, 14.6 per 1,000 of the resident population compared with 14.4 in 1955.

(c) Deaths

The number of deaths during the year was 226 and the crude death rate was, therefore, 12.5 compared with 13.4 in 1955. One hundred and fifty seven of these deaths occurred in the 70 to 100 age group. One hundred and twenty six deaths were caused by diseases of the heart and arteries; there were thirty-seven deaths from cancer (six from lung cancer - all males). There was one death from a motor vehicle accident, two deaths from other accidents and five cases of suicide.

(d) Comparability Factor

The comparability factor makes an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that of England and Wales as a whole. The comparability factors as supplied by the Registrar General for births and deaths in Depwade District are 1.16 and 0.78 respectively. When the actual birth and death rates of Depwade are multiplied by these factors the resulting rates can fairly be compared with the rates for England and Wales. The adjusted birth rate for Depwade District thus becomes 16.9 compared with 15.7 for England and Wales and the death rate 9.7 compared with 11.7 for England and Wales.

(e) Infant Mortality

There were eight infant deaths: three of these were premature babies and the remainder had congenital defects incompatible with life. The infant mortality rate (deaths under one year of age per 1,000 live births) was, therefore, 30.4. The infant mortality rate of England and Wales in 1956 was 23.8 (the lowest ever recorded).

(f) Expectation of Life (England and Wales)

In 1841 the expectation of life, at birth, was 40 years for boys and 42 years for girls. In 1955 the expectation of life remained the same as in 1954 i.e. 68 years for boys and 73 years for girls.

More people are living to old age than ever before. It is estimated that by 1979 there will be nearly ten million people of pensionable age while the number of persons of working age will remain much the same as in 1951. At that time there were less than seven million people of pensionable age.

This is the reason why increasing attention is given to the health and social problems of the aged particularly the need for suitable housing under happy social conditions.

IV. Infectious Diseases

(a) Two hundred and forty nine cases of infectious diseases were notified by general practitioners during 1956 compared with one hundred and sixty seven in 1955. One hundred and fifty eight of the notifications were measles, fifty-three whooping-cough, and sixteen scarlet fever.

(b) Diphtheria

There have been no cases of diphtheria in Depwade District for a number of years but this disease has not yet been completely eradicated from England and Wales. There were 155 notified cases in 1955 compared with 173 in 1954. The number is steadily declining year by year. It is as well to recall that in 1945 there were 18,500 notified cases with 722 deaths. In order to obtain eradication of the disease it is considered necessary to secure immunisation of at least 75% of babies before their first birthday. In England and Wales the percentage of babies immunised is no more than half the required percentage. An analysis of the details of the cases and deaths (22) in 1954 and 1955 demonstrates the need for early immunisation and booster doses.

In Area 5 (Districts of Diss, Depwade, Loddon and Wymondham) special attention was paid to diphtheria immunisation in 1956. One thousand six hundred and ten diphtheria immunisations were carried out: 523 of these were primary immunisations of children under five years of age (390 under one year of age). Considering the births of the Area (596 in 1956) this immunisation rate is reasonably good. 948 booster doses were given to school children.

(c) Polio myelitis

There have been no cases of polio myelitis in Depwade District since 1955 when there were ~~three~~^{two} cases notified. In 1955 there were 3,712 cases of paralytic polio myelitis in England and Wales with 270 deaths.

In 1956 protection against poliomyelitis by immunisation was offered to the public for the first time. Parents of 713 children in Depwade District responded to this offer; that is to say that out of the total number of children eligible (those aged 2 to 9 years) the acceptance rate was about 31%. The acceptance rate for England and Wales was about 30%. Unfortunately, owing to an unexpected shortage of vaccine it was possible, during the year, to immunise no more than 10% of those children registered for immunisation. However, at the time of writing this report all the children on the original 1956 register have been immunised (with a few exceptions for medical reasons) and a further offer of registration has been made to parents of children born between the years 1947 to 1956 inclusive.

The following information is available regarding the results of the immunisations carried out in England and Wales in May and June 1956. Nearly 400,000 injections of vaccine were given with no ill effects: the only reactions attributable to the injections were trivial. Those who were immunised were divided into two groups, the older born in the years 1947 to 1950 and the younger in the years 1951 to 1954. As it was possible to immunise only 10% of those who registered it was reasonable to accept those registered but who received no vaccine as strictly comparable controls. In the older group of those vaccinated the attack rate of poliomyelitis last year was 1.3 per 100,000 (one case). Had the attack rate been the same as in the unvaccinated controls of this group, 6 cases would have been expected i.e. an attack rate of 8.2 per 100,000. The younger vaccinated children produced 3 cases (4.1 per 100,000), whereas 15 would have been expected on the rate observed among the younger controls (20.1 per 100,000). In both groups, therefore, the apparent protection was about 80%, though with such small numbers of cases this figure must be accepted with great reserve. Better evidence of the efficiency of vaccination should be available when the results of the 1957 campaign are assessed.

(d) Scarlet Fever

Sixteen cases were notified; these were scattered cases of the mild form of the disease which is characteristic of present day infections. All except one of the cases occurred in school age children.

(e) Vaccination against Smallpox

The recorded vaccination rate for Area 5 in 1956 was 87%. Two hundred and thirteen children in the age group 0-4 years in Depwade R.D.C. were given primary vaccination, (births during the year were 263). In 1955 the vaccination acceptance rate for infants in England and Wales was just over 36%. As in the case of other immunisation procedures the ideal infant acceptance rate for the protection of the community against smallpox is 75%.

(f) Tuberculosis

Since 1951 the number of deaths in England and Wales from tuberculosis of the lungs has been more than halved. In the same period the number of deaths from other forms of tuberculosis has fallen by almost two thirds.

A feature of mortality in recent years has been that in females the high relative death rate in adolescence has disappeared and most deaths, as in males, are tending to occur in later life. In 1955 the peak of male deaths was in the age group 65 to 69 years.

Notifications of tuberculosis have declined by nearly 27% since 1949.

The attack against tuberculosis is now undertaken with increasing optimism and the line of attack is shaping as follows:

(a) Examination of family contacts of notified cases and widening the check on contacts beyond family contacts.

(b) Detecting or confirming cases by mass radiography surveys and examining contacts of such cases. Such surveys aim primarily at the most susceptible sections of the population.

(c) Protecting school-leavers by B.C.G. vaccination where a skin test shows there is inadequate immunity; offering similar protection to family contacts of cases where this is indicated.

(d) Investigating (X-ray etc.) school-leavers (and their family contacts) whose reactions to a skin test shows that they have acquired some immunity by contact with the disease.

(e) Skin testing of school children in areas where the incidence of tuberculosis is above average or where it is known the school population as a whole has been exposed to the risk of infection, and investigating "positive reactors".

(f) Skin testing of school entrants, followed by yearly skin tests where the first test is negative. Should the skin test become positive then the source of this apparently recent infection has a fair chance of being uncovered.

(g) Including periodic X-ray chest examinations as a routine in certain types of employment i.e. teachers, certain food-handlers, etc.

The foregoing outlines measures for personal protection. Control of milk and food supplies, good housing and good living standards are the well-recognised community measures for indirect control of the disease.

In carrying out mass radiography the primary object is to find the number of "cases of tuberculosis requiring treatment or close clinic supervision". Among "general public volunteers" X-rayed in England and Wales in 1954 the number so found produced a rate of 2.0 per 1,000 persons X-rayed. Six new cases of tuberculosis were notified in Depwade District in 1956 - the lowest number recorded during the past five years. In 1952, nineteen new cases were notified and since then there has been a steady diminution.

V. Cancer

There were 37 deaths in Depwade District in 1956 as a result of Cancer, or 16.4% of the total deaths. The yearly mortality remains much the same.

There were six deaths from lung cancer - all males, aged 55 to 75 years. This is the highest number recorded in the District during the past seven years. Statistical details of lung cancer deaths are shown in the tables appended to this Report.

The upward trend in deaths from lung cancer throughout England and Wales continues. Between 1936 and 1955 deaths from lung cancer in men has increased fourfold, and the rate in women has doubled.

"Civilized man appears to increasingly surrounding himself with an unnatural chemical environment whose carcinogenic (cancer causing) potentialities are being gradually explored. To what extent human cancer is caused by environmental carcinogens is not yet known but, as more and more of the chemical substances which man inhales, absorbs, or ingests are being proved carcinogenic to animals, it seems reasonable to infer that certain cancers of the human body may be initiated or promoted by such substances. The long latent period usually separating the first contact of an agent and the first signs of established malignant disease tends to make the ascertainment of direct proof of causation a long and laborious business and such proof may never be forthcoming". (Ministry of Health, Annual Report 1955).

With regard to lung cancer it is reasonable to assume that attempts will be made to eliminate any established carcinogens from tobacco tar in order to meet the grave suspicion that tobacco smoke is a cause of this disease.

Meanwhile the individual who struggles to reduce or give up his smoking might best be assisted by the creation in the community of conditions in which encouragement and opportunities for smoking are lessened. Most important of all is the necessity to warn school children of the dangers of smoking. A survey recently carried out in a large school in Manchester showed that in the age group $14\frac{1}{2}$ to $15\frac{1}{2}$ years nearly half of the boys and nearly one-fifth of the girls had acquired a taste for smoking.

VI. Housing

Details of work under the Housing Act are contained in the Report of the Public Health Inspector which follows this Report.

While progress in dealing with unfit houses as required by the Ministry under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, is reasonably satisfactory, at the same time financial restrictions imposed on new building schemes during the year brought action for the provision of new Council dwellings to an abrupt halt. However, by pruning the application list for Council houses it has been possible to reduce the waiting list to 350 compared with 400 in December 1955. The total number of Council dwellings, therefore, remains at 1,465, or approximately 23% of the total houses in the district.

If the programme approved by your Council for dealing with unfit houses is to be followed it seems inevitable that some new houses must be provided to replace the old; in accordance with the return submitted to the Ministry of Housing in August 1955, unfit houses require to be dealt with at the rate of 50 per year.

VII. Water Supplies

Information regarding the water supplies of the District are contained in the Engineer and Surveyor's Report (appended to this Report). Bacteriological and chemical analyses of your Council's water supply continued to give satisfactory results throughout the year. It can now be recorded that with recent extensions the mains reticulation covers the entire District.

VIII. Sewage Disposal

District work under this heading is contained in the Engineer and Surveyor's Report.

Overloading of the older sewage disposal plants within the District is a matter requiring urgent attention.

The absence of drainage systems and proper means of sewage disposal at many council housing sites is another serious problem. In this connection the programme of improvements which your Council has under consideration is a step towards the most necessary sanitary need of the District.

IX. Conclusion

Infectious diseases are no longer the chief killers of our children. Almost twice as many children aged 5 to 14 die from violence (on the road or in the home) as from all infectious and respiratory diseases put together; in pre-school children deaths from accidents in the home are three times greater than deaths from infectious diseases.

Notifications of Dysentery in 1955 in England and Wales were the highest on record (36,718). There has been a considerable increase in Sonne dysentery (the commonest form of dysentery) during the past ten years. In children the liability to contract this disease is far in excess of that in the older age groups. No doubt this may be explained by the fact that personal hygiene is the most important factor in preventing the disease spreading and the young are most likely to be at fault in the habit of regular hand-washing (the simplest and the best method of controlling many diseases).

Food poisoning is another problem causing anxiety. Incidents are steadily increasing. In 1955 the incidence was 49 per cent above that of 1954. The final answer lies in the education of all food handlers until scrupulous cleanliness and the use of "no-touch" techniques become second nature. This sounds hopelessly idealistic - but perhaps not so if microbe awareness is developed early in life. To stand in a kitchen and watch even intelligent and well-educated cooks at work leads to one conclusion only: that there are very few people who believe wholeheartedly in dangerous germs.

Whatever may be the difficulties the fact remains that school is the place to develop an awareness of unpleasant social problems such as harmful microbes, smoking, or litter. It is equally necessary to ensure that the school as a meeting place where these problems should be stressed has itself the best standard of sanitation which local amenities allow - so that Authority appears to be practising what it preaches. Needless to say the fundamental need is a good water supply on which the remaining items of sanitation can be built up.

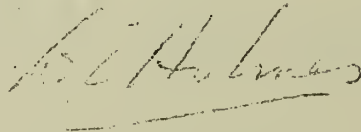
One wishes that the child at school could be taught something of the world of invisible microbes. The Microbe Man is quite as fascinating as the Space Man, infinitely more realistic (particularly to the school child who suffers the pangs of immunisation) of great practical importance, and equally adaptable to the strip cartoon.

But unexpected ignorance in matters of health need not always exasperate. There was the mother at school medical inspection who having been told that her daughter needed adjustment to her shoes to correct a foot fault remarked, after all the details were explained, "Yes, but her father doesn't like her feet interfered with".

X. In conclusion I wish to thank the Chairman, the Clerk of the Council, and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued support and encouragement and for the enthusiastic and efficient help given me by the Sanitary Inspector and Council staff, and by the Clerical Staff at the Local Health Office, Norwich.

I have the honour to be, Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. E. Holmes", written over a horizontal line.

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT

Table 1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	79,742
Estimated Resident Population	18,040
Rateable Value	£94,860
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£390

Table 2. LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	134	116	250
Illegitimate	6	7	13
Totals	140	123	263

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated Resident Population.

Depwade Rural District	...	...	14.6
Area 5	...	...	14.2

Table 3. STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	2	3	5

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births.

Depwade Rural District	...	...	18.6
Area 5	...	...	23.7

Table 4. DEATHS (All ages)

Male	Female	Total
115	111	226

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated Resident Population.

Depwade Rural District	...	...	12.5
Area 5	...	...	11.4

Table 5. INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths of Infants under one year)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	4	6
Illegitimate	-	2	2
Totals	2	6	8

Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births.

Depwade Rural District	...	...	30.4
Area 5	...	...	20.8

(Area 5 comprises Depwade & Loddon R.D's. and Diss & Wymondham U.D's.)

Table 6. CAUSE OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR - Depwade R.D.

Cause	Male	Female	Total
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	-	1	1
31. Congenital Malformations.	-	2	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	1	4	5
Totals	1	7	8

Table 7. CAUSE OF TOTAL DEATHS (Registrar-General) - Depwade R.D.

Cause	Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis; other.	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease.	1	1	2
4. Diphtheria.	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough.	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
8. Measles.	-	-	-
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases.	1	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	2	5	7
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	6	-	6
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	-	-
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms.	13	8	21
15. Leukemia, Aleukemia.	1	1	2
16. Diabetes.	-	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	11	15	26
18. Coronary disease, angina.	31	20	51
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	-	4	4
20. Other heart diseases.	17	16	33
21. Other circulatory diseases.	1	11	12
22. Influenza.	1	1	2
23. Pneumonia.	5	5	10
24. Bronchitis.	2	2	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	3	1	4
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.	5	-	5
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion.	-	1	1
31. Congenital malformations.	2	2	4
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases.	7	10	17
33. Motor vehicle accidents.	1	-	1
34. All other accidents.	1	1	2
35. Suicide.	4	1	5
36. Homicide and operations of war.	-	-	-
Totals	115	111	226

Table 8. NOTIFICATIONS OF DEATHS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1956
(According to Age Groups) ø

Depwade R.D.	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	1	7	8
1 and under 5	1	-	1
5 " " 10	-	-	-
10 " " 20	-	1	1
20 " " 30	4	-	4
30 " " 40	1	2	3
40 " " 50	5	2	7
50 " " 60	7	3	10
60 " " 70	12	25	37
70 " " 80	56	32	88
80 " " 90	28	30	58
90 " " 100	2	9	11
100 and over	-	-	-
Totals	117	111	228

ø It is pointed out that there is a discrepancy between the total number of deaths recorded in this table which is based on actual death notifications received and those of Tables 4 and 7 which are compiled from information given by the Registrar-General.

Table 9. SUMMARY OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
<u>Live Births (per 1,000 pop.)</u>	(252)	(267)	(287)	(295)	(260)	(273)	(263)	(263)
Depwade R.D.	16.7	14.8	15.8	16.3	14.4	15.0	14.4	14.6
Area 5.	14.5	14.9	15.4	15.6	14.3	13.4	14.3	14.2
England and Wales.	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0	15.7
<u>Still Births (per 1,000 total births)</u>	(4)	(3)	(5)	(12)	(5)	(10)	(8)	(5)
Depwade R.D.	13.2	11.1	17.4	39.0	18.8	35.3	29.5	18.6
Area 5.	27.0	23.0	26.8	28.0	17.1	26.0	20.8	23.7
England and Wales.	(Not published)			22.6	22.4	24.0	23.1	23.0
<u>Crude Deaths (per 1,000 pop.)</u>	(252)	(240)	(256)	(231)	(200)	(235)	(245)	(226)
Depwade R.D.	14.0	13.1	14.1	12.8	11.0	12.9	13.4	12.5
Area 5.	13.3	12.1	14.0	12.6	10.9	11.6	11.8	11.4
England and Wales.	11.7	11.6	12.5	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.7	11.7
<u>Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)</u>	(9)	(6)	(6)	(13)	(8)	(2)	(7)	(8)
Depwade R.D.	31.4	22.4	20.9	44.0	30.7	7.3	25.2	30.4
Area 5.	21.0	14.5	27.5	28.8	34.8	7.1	19.0	20.8
England and Wales.	32.0	29.8	29.6	27.0	26.8	25.5	24.9	23.8

NOTE: Figures in brackets are the actual numbers for Depwade R.D..

Table 10. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)
(ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS) - Depwade R.D.

	Under 1	1-4 yrs	5-14 yrs	15-24 yrs	Over 25	Total
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	15	-	1	16
Whooping Cough.	1	19	33	-	-	53
Measles.	2	31	119	4	2	158
Pneumonia.	1	3	-	-	9	13
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	5	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	2	-	-	-	-	2
Weils Disease.	-	-	-	-	1	1
Acute Encephalitis (post infectious)	-	-	1	-	-	1
Totals	6	53	168	4	18	249

Table 11. INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)
Depwade Rural District

	Quarters				Total
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	
Scarlet Fever.	9	3	4	-	16
Whooping Cough.	7	17	23	6	53
Measles.	21	130	7	-	158
Pneumonia.	9	1	1	2	13
Erysipelas.	1	1	2	1	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1	1	-	-	2
Weils Disease.	-	-	-	1	1
Acute Encephalitis (post infectious)	-	-	1	-	1
Totals	48	153	38	10	249

Table 12. INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING LAST FIVE YEARS - Depwade R.D.

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Scarlet Fever.	12	21	16	4	16
Measles.	326	88	535	29	158
Whooping Cough.	71	73	73	91	53
Pneumonia.	26	16	23	13	13
Infective Jaundice.	5	2	12	10	-
Erysipelas.	5	6	9	2	5
Dysentery (Sonne).	60	18	7	9	-
Food Poisoning.	4	2	1	5	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	3	1	-
Weils Disease.	1	-	1	1	1
Malaria (Contracted abroad).	-	-	1	-	-
Acute Encephalitis (post infectious)	-	-	-	-	1
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	2	3	-	-
Poliomyelitis (Non- Paralytic)	-	-	-	2	-
Diphtheria.	1	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1	1	-	-	2
Totals	512	229	684	167	249

Table 13. TUBERCULOSIS (Details of New Cases during 1956)
Depwade Rural District

Age Period	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
0-4	-	-	-	-
5-14	-	-	-	-
15-22	-	-	1	-
23-34	-	-	-	-
35-44	1	-	-	-
45-54	-	1	-	-
55-64	2	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	1	1	-

Table 14. TUBERCULOSIS (NUMBER OF CASES ON T.B.REGISTER AS AT 31.12.56)
(Depwade Rural District)

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	47	35	82
Non-Pulmonary	14	13	27
Total	61	48	109

Table 15. DETAILS OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS FOR LAST FIVE YEARS
(Depwade Rural District)

		1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Pulmonary	Male	7	7	4	4	3
	Female	7	1	4	3	2
Non-Pulmonary	Male	2	3	1	1	1
	Female	3	1	1	-	-
Total		19	12	10	8	6
Area 5 Total		43	24	23	13	17

Table 16. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following is the number of notifications of primary and booster injections received during the last six years in respect of Area 5.

	Primary Injections			Booster Injections		Total
	Under 1	Total Under 5	Age 5-14	Under 5	Age 5-14	
1956	390	523	139	62	886	1,610
1955	283	463	86	45	251	845
1954	237	486	171	26	983	1,666
1953	-	493	392	36	1,855	2,776
1952	-	371	95	15	598	1,070
1951	-	460	70	9	178	717

Table 17. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Vaccination of children (under five years of age) during the years 1952 to 1956 resident in the District and Area 5, are shown in the following table.

	Depwade R.D.					Area 5				
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Number of live births registered.	295	260	273	263	263	623	574	560	577	576
Number of vaccinations recorded (0-4 years).	148	196	158	185	213	315	391	375	361	500
Percentage vaccinated.	50	75	58	70	81	50	68	67	62	87

Table 18. VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

District	Eligible for Vaccination. (i.e. Births 1947-1954)	Number Accepted	% Accepted	Number ϕ Vaccinated
Diss U.D.	408	105	25	11
Wymondham U.D.	691	172	25	26
Depwade R.D.	2,263	713	31	59
Loddon R.D.	1,511	585	39	70
Totals - Area 5	4,873	1,575	32	166

ϕ Only 10% of the acceptances were vaccinated owing to the limited supply of vaccine.

Table 19. DEATHS DUE TO CANCER - Depwade R.D.

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Number of deaths.	41	29	49	41	32	27	36	33	37
Percentage of total deaths.	18.9	11.5	20.4	16.0	13.8	13.5	15.3	13.4	16.4

Table 20. DEATHS DUE TO CANCER - Area 5

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Number of deaths.	83	82	84	86	82	74	87	73	65
Percentage of total deaths.	16.9	16.8	17.3	15.3	16.3	16.9	18.5	15.2	14.0

Table 21. CANCER DEATHS DURING LAST SEVEN YEARS - Depwade R.D.

Year	Male			Female		
	Total Deaths.	Total Cancer Deaths.	Cancer of Lung.	Total Deaths.	Total Cancer Deaths.	Cancer of Lung.
1950	125	27	5	115	22	1
1951	134	22	5	122	19	2
1952	114	17	4	117	15	1
1953	107	17	5	93	10	-
1954	119	16	4	116	20	-
1955	133	21	3	112	13	1
1956	115	21	6	111	16	-
Totals	847	141	32	786	105	5

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for 1956 - my second complete year as your Senior Inspector.

The report is in the same form as that for the past few years, and is in accordance with requirements of the Ministry of Health contained in Circular No: 19/56.

Only one change took place in the staff of the Department during the year - Mr. W.F. Weller from Dewsbury Borough Council commenced duties as Additional Inspector in February, to fill the vacancy created when Mr. Prichard resigned in November 1955.

The following new Public Health legislation was introduced during 1956:-

(a) The Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act. 1956.
The title of the Act is self-explanatory as to its intended functions, which will be mainly enforced by Ministry inspectors acting under Regulations, but each local authority is required to administer the sections dealing with the provision of sanitary conveniences for workers on agricultural units.

(b) The Clean Air Act 1956. Needless to say it is Council's responsibilities under this statute will be negligible.

and (c) The Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act. 1956, by which the title of Public Health Inspector replaces that of 'Sanitary Inspector'.

HOUSING:

(a) General. At 31.3.56. the Rate Books show there were 6,296 separate units of living accommodation in the district - (an increase of 44 from the same date in 1955). With an estimated population of 18,040 this gives an average occupation figure of 2,865 (1955 - 2.906).

No new houses were erected by the Council in 1956, 29 were erected by private enterprise.

(b) Unfit Houses - Action under Housing Acts. In accordance with the slum clearance policy adopted by the Council in 1955 following the Survey carried out under Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, 65 houses were reported to the Public Health Committee as unfit and incapable of being brought up to standard at reasonable cost. Following inspections by the Sub-Committee and due consideration by the Council, action taken was as follows:-

Demolition Orders made...	...	...	...	...	...	43.
Undertakings accepted ...	...	...	...	...	...	19.

37 dwellings (subject to Orders made in 1956 and previously) were demolished during the year, and the following figures show the position at December 31st 1956, of dwellings subject to statutory orders etc. still standing :-

	Demolition Orders.	Closing Orders.	Under- takings.	Totals.
Number of houses occupied	37.	3	16	56
Number of houses vacant	59	7	72	138
	96	10	88	194

Of the 56 houses still occupied at 31.12.56. - 11 were the subject of licences issued under Sec.6 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act.1954.

Two undertakings were cancelled following the reconditioning of dwellings concerned.

The failure of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 to adjust the anomalous position of low rents as opposed to high housing repair costs continued to be

very apparent during 1956, so that action to secure the repair of dwellings was again confined to informal requests to owners to carry out essential works only. Sixteen such letters were sent, and in only one case was it found necessary to follow up with statutory action. One 'Certificate of Disrepair' under the aforementioned Act was applied for and issued - the first since the Act came into force. It appears that the new Rent Act, although its working seems somewhat intricate and cumbersome, should prove more effective, and the repair and maintenance of 'Category 3' dwellings - so long neglected - may soon be brought about again - if necessary by statutory action.

(c) Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants. A further 53 Improvement Grants to the value of £12,472 were approved by the Council during the year (average Grant £235 per house). Forty were in respect of dwellings occupied by the owner (18 were farmhouses), 8 were for tied agricultural cottages, and the remaining 5 for ordinarily let houses. Only one grant applied to the conversion of another type of building (a school) for use as a dwelling.

The total number of Improvement Grants approved by the Council up to the end of 1956 was 186, to the total value of £41,950, 9 of these were subsequently withdrawn or cancelled (following the breaking of statutory conditions).

(d) Overcrowding. I am pleased to be able to again report that overcrowding is not a serious problem in the district; although the figures given below of the position at the end of the year may not be perfectly accurate as to every house in the district, it is safe to assume that from the various sources that information is available, very few cases do not come to our attention at some time or another.

Statutory Overcrowding:

Number of cases outstanding at 31.12.55...	3
--	-----	-----	---

Number of cases reported during 1956	2
--------------------------------------	-----	-----	---

Remaining on register at 31.12.56...	5
--------------------------------------	-----	-----	---

No cases of overcrowding were known to have been abated during the year.

Note:- In addition there remain 9 cases on the register which are 'overcrowded' on the basis of counting bedrooms only for sleeping purposes

(e) Dirty and Verminous Dwellings. Dwellings generally in the District have once again been found to be kept in a very clean condition but during the year 7 cases came under notice of the Department where informal action was required to bring about improvements. In two of these cases aged persons were found to be living alone in insanitary circumstances and were considered to be incapable of attending to their personal needs or proper cleanliness of their homes. In one case it was possible to eventually persuade the old man to enter a County Home, but in the second case he could not be persuaded to do so voluntarily and it was necessary to apply for a Justice's order under Sec.47 of the National Assistance Act 1948, before he could be removed.

(f) Moveable Dwellings. The tendency to use caravans as 'semi-permanent' dwelling accommodation appears to be increasing - our figures at the end of 1956 show an increase of 10 from the previous year. This is probably due to various causes, but mainly I think to the high cost of building new houses, shortage of or relative high rents of Council Houses and the desire of young couples to start married life with a home of their own. The release of second-hand prefabricated bungalows for re-erection may be the answer to some of these problems, and reduce the number of caravans in due course. Practically all the caravans in the district are of the modern car-trailer type and are each on their own separate sites. All the sites were kept under observation during the year and in no case was it found necessary to take action regarding unsatisfactory sanitary conditions. The one case of overcrowding mentioned in my last report unfortunately still exists, but the circumstances are somewhat unusual and I am satisfied that the occupier will do his utmost to provide improved permanent housing accommodation for his family as soon as possible.

Number of moveable dwellings licensed at 31.12.55...	...	17
--	-----	----

New licences issued during 1956...	...	17
------------------------------------	-----	----

		34
Number removed or ceased to be used during 1956	...	8

Number licensed and in use at 31.12.56..	...	26
--	-----	----

WATER SUPPLIES:

(a) Main Supplies. During the year 16 routine samples were taken from Council main supplies and submitted for bacteriological examination. All were reported as satisfactory.

Twenty-three samples were also submitted for similar examination from new mains and extensions to ensure satisfactory supplies before being made available to the public. Of these 16 were satisfactory, 3 'suspicious' and 4 unsatisfactory. In the 7 latter cases - further sterilizing treatment of the mains was carried out until satisfactory results were obtained.

(b) Other Council Supplies. Two bacteriological samples were taken from wells supplying Council dwellings. One was reported as satisfactory and the other unsatisfactory (Tibhenham Council Houses, Nr. School). As a temporary expedient the tenants were warned to boil the water, but mains water has since been supplied to these houses.

(c) Private Supplies. 35 samples were taken from private wells and bores for bacteriological examination, with results as follows :-

Source of Supply.	Number taken.	Number Satisfactory.	Number Suspicious.	Number Un-satisfactory.
Shallow Wells.	31	10	3	18
Bores.	4	2	2	-

The high percentage of 'unsatisfactory' samples from shallow wells is a further indication of the unreliable nature of this source of supply, but unfortunately, even with the extensive system of Council mains now existing in the District, a relatively small number of dwellings will continue to depend on such supplies. It has, however, been found possible to make such supplies reasonably safe by having the wells cleaned out and treated with sterilizing agents, particularly if the treatment is continued at regular intervals.

The two 'suspicious' samples from a bore were taken immediately after the sinking of a new bore, and after a prolonged pumping out a satisfactory result was obtained.

Note: Further details of Council water supplies in the District are contained in the Annual Report of the Engineer & Surveyor.

SCAVENGING.

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal. No major changes in the Council's scheme for the collection and disposal of household refuse took place during 1956. About 95% of the houses in the District receive the service, with a collection once a fortnight, except in Harleston where collection is made every week.

To offset the time lost each year through sickness and holidays, and to enable more attention to be given to the tips, an additional man was appointed in January - P.A. Stone - making a total of eight men for this work. However, A. Harper left the Council's employ in December, and had not been replaced by the end of the year. 1956 proved to be the worst year since the direct labour refuse collection scheme was started for time lost by men through sickness and accidents - a total of 224 working days in all were lost, the equivalent of one man's time for 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ weeks.

The two original 10.c.yd Dennis petrol driven vehicles purchased in 1948 and 1949 continued to give satisfactory service, and the new 7.c.yd. Fordson diesel vehicle purchased in 1955, apart from a defective gear box due to faulty assembly, also gave satisfactory service, and its running costs worked out very economical compared with the petrol vehicles.

Disposal of refuse continued on the same lines as previous years by 'semi-controlled' tipping at pits at Weybread, Ashwellthorpe, Forncoett, Hempnall and Roydon - the latter being shared with Diss U.D.C. Regular treatment of these tips for rats and insect pests reduced the possibility of nuisance to a minimum, and judged by the very small number of complaints received, appears to have been effective.

The continued small demand for waste paper with the relatively low price offered, made any special efforts to salvage this material quite uneconomic and only 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons were sold during the year for £16. 8. 0d.

(b) Night-Soil Collection. The weekly collection of E. C. Pails in the built-up parts of the Parishes of Harleston, Wortwell, Pulham Market and Pulham St. Mary continued throughout the year on the same lines as the previous year - three men being employed with the Cesspool Emptier on one night per week (all the scavenging staff taking duty on rota). In April this service was also commenced in the Parish of Alburgh and to avoid having to adjust the existing working arrangements by working another night per week, is carried out by the two regular men on the Cesspool Emptier from 6.a.m. to 9.a.m. one morning per week. This was done in agreement with the Parish Council, and has worked out quite satisfactorily.

Disposal of 'night-soil' was again carried out on specially prepared straw pans, on an isolated farm site at Thorpe Abbots, and proved quite satisfactory. I understand that some authorities experience considerable difficulty in disposing of 'night-soil' and I would like to express my appreciation of the co-operation received from this particular Farmer, to assist in overcoming what might have been quite a serious problem.

(c) Cesspool Emptying. The Dennis 800 gallon Cesspool Emptier purchased in 1950 has again been fully employed through^{out} the year on the emptying of cesspools and septic tanks at Council Housing Sites, private premises, schools etc., both within the Council's district and in adjoining areas. The total mileage of the vehicle for 1956 was 10,852 (as against 9,512 for 1955) and the amount of work carried out was also in excess of that done the previous year - see figures below. I would once again point out the difficulties that arise from time to time regarding the disposal of cesspool contents, and credit is due to the driver in charge of the vehicle that these difficulties have been overcome without any serious risk to public health; when approached in a reasonable way farmers have usually obliged by allowing the use of suitable arable land, and their co-operation is appreciated.

Details of work done during the year are as follows:-

Depwade R.D.C. Housing Sites...	...	...	621 loads.
Depwade R.D.C. Sewage Works ...	...	...	9 "
Depwade R.D.C. Water Works (lime sludge)...	...	...	157 "
Private premises within the District.	...	...	188 "
School Canteens, " " "	...	...	157 "
Premises outside the Depwade district	...	...	363 "
			<hr/> 1,495 " <hr/>

Note: The number of loads removed in 1955 was ... 1,275.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES AND PREMISES.

(a) Meat Inspection and Slaughterhouses. Out of the 14 Slaughterhouses licensed in the District, 10 were in regular use during the year, and 850 visits were made for the purpose of meat inspection. Details of the number of animals killed, inspected and found diseased is shown in the following table (which is produced in the form required by the Ministry):-

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number Killed.	1,066	78	1,979	1,756	3,999	--
Number Inspected.	866 81.23%	70 87.34%	458 23.13%	851 42.14%	2,053 51.26%	--
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole Carcasses.	2	3	--	--	5	--
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	27	15	3	2	131	--
Percentage of number inspected affected.	3.35%	25.71%	0.66%	0.24%	6.63%	--
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>						
Whole Carcasses.	--	--	--	--	--	--
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	27	1	1	--	60	--
Percentage of number inspected affected.	3.12%	1.43%	0.22%	--	2.93%	--
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	1	--	--	--	--	--
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	1	--	--	--	--	--
Generalised and totally condemned.	--	--	--	--	--	--

The total figure of animals killed shows an increase of 20% over the previous year; although the total of those inspected represents less than 50% of those slaughtered (as against 70% in 1955) it will be observed that a large proportion of those animals not inspected are calves and sheep - both of which are known to be less likely to be diseased; these and the pigs not inspected were slaughtered in the two ~~wholesale~~ slaughterhouses and intended for London trade - and would be seen at Smithfield Market. Again I have no hesitation in stating that all meat slaughtered for consumption in the District is definitely inspected. Butchers have been found to be co-operative in this matter and will not offer meat for sale until it is inspected.

There are no striking changes in the figures of the incidence of disease in the food animals slaughtered in the District; those for tuberculosis are again remarkably low and in my opinion stress two points - (a) the general trend towards the eradication of tuberculosis among food animals and (b) the good quality of meat killed and offered for sale in this area.

All condemned meat and offal is stained with the recommended green dye at the slaughterhouse, and either disposed of at the premises by burning or burying, or removed for processing by a reputable firm of fat merchants.

Late in the year two of the licensed slaughterhouses were approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food as Deadweight Certification Centres for pigs eligible for subsidy; as agreed by the Council this certification and marking of the carcasses was carried out by your Inspectors at the time of meat inspection. By the end of the year 34 certificates had been issued for a total of 189 carcasses of pork.

(b). Inspection and Condemnation of Other Foods. The following foodstuffs, other

than fresh meat etc., were condemned and surrendered as unfit for human consumption :-

1 x 14 lb tin of English Gammon.	}	Blow and
1 x 14 lb tin of Plums.		Damaged
1 x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz tin of Peas.		tins.
1 x 2 lb tin of Tomatoes.		
4 Cases of Greek Currants (200 lbs) -		Fermentation and Mould.

This is a remarkably small amount of condemned food compared with figures for the past few years, and is explained by the fact that practically all wholesalers now accept a trader's word when tinned foods are found to be out of condition, and also that generally speaking such foodstuffs are of better quality and packed more satisfactorily than ever before. This condemned food is disposed of by burning or burying at the Council's refuse tips.

(c) Food Premises. The total number of food handling premises in the District - other than slaughterhouses and dairies - varied only slightly from the figures for 1955, and at the end of the year were as follows :-

General food shops...	105
Fish shops - including fried fish and chip shops.	6
Fish stalls...	3
Butchers' shops	18
Restaurants, cafes etc.	8
School Canteens.	12
Bakeries ...	10
Public Houses ...	77
Others - Mills, Factories etc.	7
	<hr/> 246

In addition to the above there were several travelling fish and chip vans, at least one travelling butcher's shop, and other miscellaneous vans selling fish, ice-cream, fruit etc. which operate in the district from other areas, upon which it is very difficult to keep a satisfactory check. Had the new Food Hygiene Regulations made provision for registration of such traders with every local authority in which they operated this difficulty could have been overcome.

Included in the above figures, there are on the register 14 premises used for the preparation of sausages, cooked meats etc. and 5 fried fish shops - registered under Sec. 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, 43 inspections were made of these premises and all found to be kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

As mentioned in my last Annual Report the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955, made under the Food and Drugs Act 1955, came into force on January 1st 1956, and early in the year a circular letter was sent to the occupier of every food premises in the District, enclosing a summarised leaflet of the requirements, and requesting compliance forthwith with those items not involving the installation of new appliances or equipment. There were, however, several features of the new Regulations which Public Health Inspectors, members of the various food trades, etc, could not determine with any degree of certainty exactly what the legislators had intended, and in fact the controversy on what is meant by the expression 'food for immediate consumption' still goes on. With this uncertainty as to the exact requirements of the Regulations, I was naturally reluctant to commence individual visits to food traders to give them detailed instructions to make their premises comply, but after attending a meeting of the Association of Public Health Inspectors in July, at which a Ministry representative gave his views on the application of the Regulations, I was able to recommend the Council on a workable standard, which was adopted.

In all, 31 inspections were carried out during the latter part of the year, and 20 informal letters sent setting out requirements to comply with the Regulations. In only one case was it necessary to request the cleansing of food premises, and the necessary work was carried out straightaway. Lack of satisfactory hand-washing facilities is the main item requiring attention in most instances and by the time I present my next Annual Report I hope to be able to report that in most cases these will have been provided.

Generally speaking, I think it is fair to say that most food traders in the District are 'food handling hygiene' conscious; there are exceptions, of course, but if the public will co-operate with us by reporting unsatisfactory conditions, habits or utensils (like chipped crockery etc. in cafes) or refusing to trade at shops not up to a proper standard, a general improvement all round must ensue.

(d) Dairies & Milk Distribution. 1956 was the first complete year during which the sale of raw undesignated milk was prohibited in the District, and since the Order came into force in March 1955 this does not appear to have presented any serious difficulties. The major portion of the milk retailed in the District is bottled at large plants in other areas and distributed by the 24/registered distributors (some producer retailers are still in operation but these are registered and controlled by the County Agricultural Committee). The number of registered retailers is the same as for the previous year - two new registrations replacing two cancellations. The operations of all retailers have been kept under observation throughout the year as a matter of routine and no contraventions of the Milk and Dairies Regulations were observed. Only one retailer's dairy was registered in 1956 and routine visits indicated that it was operated and maintained in a satisfactory manner.

Fifty-two licences were issued for the sale of milk under "special designations" as follows:-

'Tuberculin Tested' Dealers licences...	...	...	15
'Tuberculin Tested' Supplementary licences...	...	...	10
'Pasteurised' Dealers licences ...	...	...	16
'Pasteurised' Supplementary licences...	...	...	11
			<hr/>
Total.....			52

(e) Ice-Cream. The number of premises registered for the manufacture and/or sale of ice-cream at the end of the year was :-

For manufacture and sale...	...	...	...	1
For sale only...	...	...	...	52
				<hr/>
Total.....				53

This figure is an increase of nine over the previous year. Ice-cream is also sold in the District from an unknown number of vehicles operating from outside the area, and as these traders mostly come in at week-ends and summer evenings they are difficult to supervise or sample the ice-cream they are selling. It is hard to understand why 'premises' used for the sale of ice-cream need registration itinerant vendors do not.

The method of manufacture at the only premises registered for this purpose is that known as the 'complete cold mix' which is less likely to lead to bacteriologically unsatisfactory ice-cream than other methods - particularly when operated on a small scale by inexperienced persons. The premises are maintained very satisfactorily. All other premises used for the sale of ice-cream were visited at least once during the year. No infringements of the Food and Drugs Act or Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations were observed.

Twenty-one samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination - with the following results - Grade I 20, Grade II 1. Even taking into consideration that almost all the ice-cream sold in the district is of well-known proprietary makes, these results cannot be regarded as other than highly satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT. 1937.

The number of factories on the Council's register at December 31st 1956 was as follows:-

Factories using mechanical power ...	73
Factories without mechanical power...	9
Total ...	<u>82</u>

This is a reduction of one from the previous year. Ninety-four inspections of these premises were made and the only matter found to require attention was an unclean sanitary convenience, which was subsequently abandoned on the provision of a new one. Inspections were also made to ensure the provision of satisfactory temporary sanitary accommodation at sites where building and similar operations were in progress and in all cases suitable provision was made.

One 'Certificate of Means of Escape in Case of Fire' under Section 34 of the Act was issued during the year.

Notification was received of three 'outworkers' in the District, and visits to the premises concerned found satisfactory working conditions to exist.

RODENT CONTROL

Mr F.E. Wright commenced duties as the Council's Rodent Operator on May 1st 1956, to replace Mr.A.T. Allen, who left the Council's service in February. He has proved a very keen and conscientious servant, and the efficiency of his work has brought in several expressions of satisfaction from occupiers of premises where treatments have been carried out.

Free treatment at all private dwellings, and charges made based on actual working costs for treatments at all other types of premises, has continued as previously; generally occupiers of all types of premises have been found to be coOperative in this work and it is pleasing to be able to again report that no statutory action was necessary to ensure compliance with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

The following figures summarise the work carried out during the year :-

	Local Authority Property	Billingsford (inc. Billingsford)	Other Property	Other Premises	Total
Number of inspections as a result of notification or survey.	125	2,277	205	160	2,767
No. of infestations:					
(a) Major	12	259	1	15	287
(b) Minor.	18	10	2	7	37
No of treatments carried out.	30	269	3	22	324
No. of dead rats and mice picked up.	459	373	125	106	1,063

The various sewerage systems in the District were given one test baiting during the year and evidence of rat infestation was found at Upper Billingsford and one small area in Harleston - strangely enough not the same area as found to be previously affected. The sewer manholes in the infested areas were subsequently treated and the results of post-treatment test baiting indicated that a good clearance had been made.

The threshing of stacks was again kept under observation by the Rodent Operators and Inspectors to ensure compliance with the Regulations regarding satisfactory fencing during dismantling operations, and in only two cases was it found necessary to take informal action.

OTHER MATTERS.

In addition to the work carried out under the above main headings, the usual routine investigations have been made into the home circumstances where cases of infectious disease and suspected food poisoning occurred - as requested by the Medical Officer. Figures contained in the Medical Officer's section of the Report on the incidence of infectious diseases etc. will indicate the extent of duties on this subject.

The number of complaints received of nuisances arising from foul ditches, choked drainage, etc. varied little from those of previous years, and were mainly dealt with informally; apart from verbal requests for abatement of nuisances, 19 letters were sent. No statutory action was necessary to secure compliance with informal requests.

290 plans were dealt with during the year in connection with the Department's work on control of new buildings etc. under the Building Bye-laws and Town Planning - a reduction of 76 on the 1955 figure.

In conclusion, I should like to express my thanks to the Medical Officer, the Clerk and all other members of the Council staff for their assistance and co-operation throughout the year, and also to the Chairman and members of the Council for their support in dealing with all matters reported to them. Finally, I do not consider this report on the year 1956 would be complete without brief reference to the passing of Mr. John H. Quantrill, who in his many years as a member of the Council took a great interest in the work connected with this Department; to my mind he was a model Councillor, very fair minded in his approach to any subject and had great consideration for others; his place on the Council will not be easy to fill.

I have the honour to be, Mr.Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. C. WEEKS.

Senior Public Health Inspector.

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Annual Report of the Engineer and Surveyor for 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies' and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1956.

PART I - GENERAL.

(i) Reorganisation of Department.

As from the 1st. January, 1956 I was made responsible for the additional work connected with the provision of dwellings, housing site roads and services, sewage disposal schemes and all new works of water supply not connected with the comprehensive water supply scheme.

In order to deal with this additional work an Architectural Assistant, Mr. K. F. Stone, and an additional Engineering Assistant, Mr. R. Hope, were appointed. The vacant post of Draughtsman/Clerk became redundant. Mr. Hope, however, tendered his resignation to take an appointment abroad after only 3 months service and he was not replaced since restrictions on capital expenditure had been enforced by the Government.

(ii) Outdoor Staff

In my report for 1955 I stated that a review of the outdoor staff should be made in 1956. When saying this I had in mind the undesirability of the present arrangement whereby attendants are engaged upon the dual duties of the maintenance of the water undertaking and sewage disposal works. This is quite wrong and the water undertaking is now sufficiently large to justify the employment of a separate maintenance staff.

In view of the proposed re-grouping of water undertakings, however, this review has been postponed until the future is a little more clear. It is hoped that by next year the effect of re-grouping on the Council's undertaking will be known and since in 1958 one of the attendants is due for retirement and a further attendant will be released from duties at Rushall Waterworks when the reorganisation is completed, it would seem that this will be the correct time to effect any changes required.

In the meantime every precaution will continue to be taken to avoid any pollution of the supply, particularly at times of mains fractures.

PART II - WATER SUPPLY.

Production.

In May the 50 years old Deep-Well reciprocating pumps at Rushall were removed and replaced by a Hayward Tyler Submersible Pump. This pump has a capacity of nearly twice that of the old pumps and, whilst the low capacity of the treatment plant necessitated that it should normally be run at a reduced output, it was of great value at times of peak demand since an increased quantity of partly treated water could be pumped.

Appendix I

It will be seen from Appendix I that the increase in consumption in 1956 was not so great as was expected, this, of course, being due to the particularly wet summer. The effect of dry weather in the spring when garden crops are being raised is indicated by the peak demand in May. No particular difficulty in maintaining supplies was experienced although the quality of the water during the summer period was impaired due to the overloading of the treatment plant.

Appendix II

The general characteristics of the untreated water remained unchanged, the hardness being approximately 30° Clark and the iron content quite appreciable. The necessity of iron removal and softening plant is indicated by these figures. The Public Health Dept. continued to take routine samples throughout the district during the year.

Chlorination has been continued with a view to maintaining a residual chlorine availability in the mains of one part in ten millions.

Appendix III & IV

It will be seen that with the comprehensive scheme nearing completion and with the restrictions on capital expenditure in force, relatively few mains were laid in 1956. Nevertheless a supply was made available to a further 22 dwellings. 162 miles of mains were in service by the end of the year.

A number of schemes for the serving of isolated Communities by small diameter mains were deferred due to the financial restrictions. At the time of writing this report one such scheme has now been carried out and it is hoped that a further three schemes will soon be undertaken. It does seem that this mode of supply can advantageously be used in the future for the serving of small groups of dwellings which would otherwise remain outside the limits of supply by normal size mains, because of the cost involved.

Appendix V & VI

Of a further 22 Council dwellings were afforded a supply during the year and a total of 1,510 dwellings owned by the Council only 56 remained without a piped supply.

Appendix VII

Appendix VII gives details of the population supplied.

As was to be expected the increase in population served in 1956 was less than during 1955 but I feel that the Council can be proud of the fact that by the end of the year 77% of the population in the statutory area had a piped water supply.

Appendix VIII

Some details of the routine work of the Department are given in Appendix VIII.

The number of connections to existing mains remained approximately the same as in 1955 but the number of mains fractures decreased from 18 to 7. No material interruptions in the supply were caused and the repairs were expeditiously carried out by my staff.

The repair of water meters has been satisfactory and has showed a considerable saving to the Council.

The preparation of the card index record system for every property supplied is a big task but I am satisfied with the progress made in 1956. From that part which has been completed the value of the system to us has been very evident.

Appendix IX

Financial details of the years working are given in this appendix.

PART III - SEWER DISPOSAL

DESIGN OF NEW WORKS

Scole Disposal Works.

To facilitate the operation of these works a Pumping Station was designed and construction was commenced in October.

Harleston and Long Stratton Disposal Works.

Unsatisfactory effluents were obtained from these works due to the fact that they are greatly overloaded and I was instructed to prepare plans for their enlargement. Unfortunately this work was delayed due to the post of additional Engineering Assistant only being filled for three months and it was not possible to complete the plans.

At the time of the writing of this report however, I am pleased that this vacancy on my staff has just been filled and I hope to present my proposals for Harleston within a few months.

Appendix X

Appendix X gives details of the samples of effluent from the works which were taken and analysed by my staff.

Some improvement of the effluents at Harleston, Long Stratton and Scole was effected during the year but satisfactory effluents at all times cannot be guaranteed until the works referred to above are carried out.

PART IV - HOUSING

Housing Programme.

There were no new dwellings erected by the Council in 1956 and the design work was limited to that of a Gardens Dwelling to form part of an Old Persons Grouped Home Scheme at Long Stratton.

Improvement of Dwellings.

Plans were prepared for the addition of bathrooms and the fitting of hot water installations to 6 pre-war houses at Harleston and Fulham St. Mary. Because of the high building costs and the high rates of interest for loans the increase in rents were such that the tenants subsequently declined to have the work carried out.

Appendix XI

Appendix XI gives details of the maintenance repair to dwellings erected under the 1954 and 1955 programmes which were supervised by my staff.

Damage to Water Installations by Frost.

Considerable damage was caused to water installations in Council dwellings by the very severe frosts early in the year. I suggested that polythene tubing might be inserted in the installations at strategic points in an attempt to minimise the damage caused by freezing and, in conjunction with the Housing Repairs Officer, I was instructed to have this work carried out to a number of houses as an experiment. So far as this experiment was concerned it was unfortunate that no severe frosts occurred in the winter of 1956/57 and no results could be obtained. For this purpose only it is to be hoped that the conditions will allow us to see the results of the experiments next winter.

Appendix XII

Details of the samples of effluents taken from the Housing Site Sewage Disposal works are given in Appendix XII.

The value of these analyses to us is indicated by the fact that in a few cases unsatisfactory effluents were discovered and the necessary work was then carried out to improve the efficiency of the works. It is quite often the case that effluents appear to be satisfactory by visual examination but an analysis such as we carry out indicates that this is not the case.

The works at Persfield and Thorpe Abbots continued to give satisfactory effluents since they are greatly underloaded but they are, as was reported last year, in a bad state of repair. We have continued to carry out minor repairs in an attempt to avoid any considerable expense since they are only temporary works.

By the end of the year there were 425 Council Dwellings on 59 sites with a piped water supply and no satisfactory sewage disposal facilities. The restrictions on capital expenditure precluded the construction of any schemes in 1956 but I do regard it as important that attention is given to this problem as soon as possible and a definite number of schemes constructed each year.

Thorpe Abbots Water Supply.

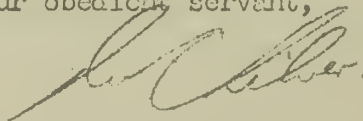
In February the deep-well pump installed at the temporary housing site waterworks became defective and it was replaced by a second-hand submersible pump. During the year constant trouble was experienced with fractured mains and services on this site and, at the time of writing this report, the position has been aggravated by the failure of one section of the steel water tower.

This supply is becoming increasingly expensive to maintain and it will be greatly to the Council's advantage to take it out of service at the earliest opportunity.

In conclusion I should like to express my thanks to the Clerk and all members of the Council staff for their ready assistance and cooperation during the past year and also to the members of the Council for the support and assistance they have given.

I am, Ladies' and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



Engineer and Surveyor.

Appendix I

Monthly Quantity of Water Consumed in 1956.

ZONE OF SUPPLY.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.
<u>A. From Rushall Waterworks.</u>						
Area supplied from Harleston Tower.	1,277,600	1,280,100	1,242,300	1,240,500	1,249,100	1,204,400
Area supplied from Long Stratton Tower.	1,103,900	1,186,900	1,172,700	1,203,100	1,485,100	1,255,300
Area supplied from Fornectt Booster.	659,200	609,000	696,400	647,000	761,500	654,000
Area supplied direct from Pulham Tower.	3,291,600	3,261,900	3,354,500	3,418,200	4,496,300	3,460,400
Supply to Air Ministry, Pulham.	117,000	130,000	177,000	145,000	190,000	192,000
Total.	6,449,300	6,467,900	6,642,900	6,653,800	8,182,000	6,766,100
<u>B. From Diss Waterworks.</u>						
Area supplied from Burston Tower.	1,193,100	1,477,700	1,610,400	1,571,600	2,132,500	2,078,500
Diss Heywood.	128,400	129,900	118,600	134,000	169,700	130,100
Total.	1,321,500	1,607,600	1,729,000	1,705,600	2,302,200	2,208,600
	7,770,800	8,075,500	8,371,900	8,359,400	10,484,200	8,974,700

Appendix I

Monthly Quantity of Water Consumed in 1956.

ZONE OF SUPPLY.	July.	August.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
<u>A. From Rushall Waterworks.</u>							
Area supplied from Harleston Tower.	1,147,900	1,098,600	1,139,600	1,179,700	1,205,500	1,042,000	14,307,300
Area supplied from Long Stratton Tower	1,275,900	1,180,400	1,227,400	1,253,400	1,201,200	1,256,100	14,801,400
Area supplied from Fornceett Booster.	725,200	724,800	701,800	750,600	712,500	744,000	8,386,000
Area supplied direct from Pulham Tower.	3,945,100	3,887,900	3,627,700	3,688,400	3,447,800	3,556,600	43,426,400
Supply to Air Ministry, Pulham.	151,000	182,000	127,000	118,000	187,000	149,000	1,865,000
Total.	7,245,100	7,073,700	6,823,500	6,990,100	6,754,000	6,747,700	82,796,100
<u>B. From Diss Waterworks.</u>							
Area supplied from Burston Tower.	1,960,100	1,680,900	1,635,600	1,486,700	1,887,100	1,820,100	20,534,200
Diss Heywood.	143,300	129,500	122,900	133,900	112,200	129,500	1,502,000
Total.	2,103,400	1,810,400	1,758,500	1,620,600	1,999,300	1,949,600	22,116,300
	9,348,500	8,884,100	8,582,000	8,610,700	8,753,300	8,697,300	104,912,400

Total 1956 - 104,912,400 gallons.
 Total 1955 - 98,550,000 gallons.
 Increase in 1956 - 6,362,400 gallons.

Average Daily Consumption Per Person - 20 Gallons.

Appendix II

Bacteriological and Chemical Analysis Results.

Combined Bacteriological and Chemical from Source.

Site.	Chemical. (parts per million).							
	Bact.	CO.	Nitrite.	Nitrate.	Hardness.	pH.	Iron	Fluoride
May, 1956. Rushall.	Satisfactory.	33	Nil.	Nil.	420	7.2	4.1	0.20

Bacteriological Samples.
(Taken by Public Health Dept.)

	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Mains in Service.	16	Nil.
New mains prior to being put into service	16	7 *

* Further chlorination and flushing of the mains was carried out and satisfactory samples then obtained.

Appendix III

Water Mains, Fittings and Water Towers At 31st Dec. 1956.

Water Mains.	Sluice Valves.	Hydrants.	Washouts.	Air Valves.	Water Towers.	Total storage capacity.
162 miles.	228	576	111	233	5	580,000 gls.

Appendix IVWater Mains laid in 1956.

Parish.	Size of Main.	Length of Main.	Dwellings supplied.	Metered supplies.
Pulham St. Mary. (Kemps Rd.)	4"	1.85 miles.	16	10
Starston. (Skimmers Lane).	4"	1.61 miles.	16	9
Alburgh. (Mill Farm).	4"	0.73 miles.	12	7
Earsham. (Park).	3" 2"	0.87 miles. 0.29 miles.	11	9
Wortwell. (Low Rd.)	4"	0.58 miles.	16	2
Burwell. (Low Common), and Hapton.	4"	4.83 miles.	126	48
(parts of Burwell, Tharston,	3"	1.82 miles.		
Aslacton, Fornsett, Gt. Moulton)	1"	0.19 miles.		
Dickleburgh. (Brockdish link main.)	4"	2.68 miles.	26	10
Totals.		15.45 miles.	223	95

Appendix VCouncil Dwellings Supplied in 1956.

Parish.	Dwellings Supplied.
Starston.	3
Burwell.	6
Tharston.	13
Total.	22

Appendix VIPiped Water Supply to Council Dwellings.

	Number of Dwellings.
Dwellings without piped supply.	56
Dwellings with piped supply.	1,454
Total.	1,510

Population Supplied with Mains Water.

Parish.	Number of Dwellings Served.			Metered Supply.	Estimated Population Served.	Population of Parish.
	Direct to Dwellings.	By Stand-Pipe.	Total.			
Alburgh.	103	12	115	36	333	364
Ashwellthorpe.	100	23	123	16	348	529
Aslaeton.	54	6	60	8	190	259
Bressingham.	155	29	184	46	556	745
Brockdish.	108	30	138	21	404	524
Bunwell.	168	20	188	26	519	703
Burston.	68	20	88	21	292	502
Carlton Rode.	118	20	138	32	366	571
Denton.	79	28	107	38	312	337
Dickleburgh.	161	21	182	11	524	844
Earsham.	140	10	150	22	433	606
Fornsett.	136	26	162	37	486	660
Gissing.	47	6	53	10	144	260
Herrnall.	194	30	224	30	609	676
Long Stratton.	269	38	307	25	793	855
Morningthorpe.	55	12	67	15	228	296
Moulton St. Michael.	71	10	81	10	228	309
Needham.	66	8	74	10	203	290
Pulham Market.	190	25	215	27	675	875
Pulham St. Mary.	186	18	204	41	573	682
Redenhall with Harleston.	585	80	665	35	1,644	1,709
Roydon.	129	22	151	12	404	585
Scole.	277	16	293	28	940	1,088
Shelfanger.	59	6	65	10	190	263
Shelton.	66	5	71	24	241	289
Starston.	81	6	87	24	267	393
Tacolneston.	73	12	85	12	250	306
Tasburgh.	94	8	102	13	285	305
Tharston.	79	20	99	16	338	416
Tibenham.	12	2	14	6	42	454
Tivetshall St. Margaret.	49	9	58	6	179	311
Tivetshall St. Mary.	49	11	60	8	181	238
Wacton.	40	12	52	18	151	189
Winferthing.	100	10	110	36	339	387
Wortwell.	95	16	111	10	305	341
Disa Heywood.	26	6	32	15	92	113
Totals.	4,282	633	4,915	755	14,064	18,274
As at 31st. Dec. 1955	4,044	598	4,642	610	13,333	18,274
Increase in 1956.	238	35	273	145	731	

Population of Statutory Area - 18,274.

Estimated Population with Piped Supply - 14,064.

Percentage of Total Population with Piped Supply - 77%

Appendix VIII

Routine Work of Department.

(i). Mains Tappings.

70 mains tappings were made to provide new connections to existing mains.

(ii). Mains Fractures.

7 water main fractures and 12 service pipe fractures were repaired in 1956.

(iii). Re-laying of Mains Necessitated by Highway Improvements.

320 yards of 4" water main were re-laid at Bunwell.

(iv). Routine Inspections.

315 inspections of private installations were made to ensure compliance with the Council's Regulations.

(v). Repair to Water Meters.

17 Water Meters were repaired at Rushall.

(vi). House Card Record System.

Good progress was made on compiling a card index record system of every property and this was completed for 7 parishes.

Appendix IX

Financial Statistics.

(i). Cost of Production of Water.

Pumping.	4.854 d. per 1,000 gallons.
Treatment.	2.694 d. " "
Chlorination.	0.082 d. " "
Labour.	3.022 d. " "
Sundries. (Repairs, heating etc.)	0.151 d. " "
Total.	<u>10.803 d. per 1,000 gallons.</u>

(ii). Total Capital Expenditure. (31st. March. 1957.) - £511,513

(iii). Revenue Expenditure. (inclusive of running costs,
loan charges etc.) £33,560

(iv). Revenue. - £14,832

Appendix X

Effluent Samples from Public Health Sewage Disposal Works.

Name of Works.	Date.	Result of Analysis.
Dickleburgh.	2.6.56.	Satisfactory.
	8.9.56.	Good.
Hempnall.	2.6.56.	Very Good.
	8.9.56.	Good.
Scole.	2.6.56.	Bad.
	8.9.56.	Reasonably Satisfactory.
Long Stratton.	2.6.56.	Poor.
	8.9.56.	Good.
Harleston.	2.6.56.	Poor.
	8.9.56.	Satisfactory.

Appendix XIHousing Maintenance Repairs.

Programme.	Site.	No. of Dwellings.	Contractor.
1954	Morningthorpe.	2. Bungalows.	Messrs. Riches. Bros., Tasburgh.
1954	Pulham Market.	4. "	Mr. W. G. Packham, Ditchingham.
1954	Shelfanger.	6. Houses.	Messrs. R. G. Carter, Ltd., Drayton.
1954	Earsham.	8. "	"
1955	Bressingham.	4. Bungalows.	"
1955	Tasburgh.	2. Houses.	Mr. F. Fisher, Long Stratton.
1955	Burston.	4. Bungalows.	"
1955	Gt. Moulton.	4. "	"
1955	Pulham St. Mary.	4. "	"
1955	Pulham Market.	4. "	"
1954	Earsham.	4. "	Mr. W. Waters. Mundham.
1954	Harleston.	8. Houses.	Messrs. Blackburn, Ltd., Harleston.
1955	Needham.	4. Bungalows.	"
1955	Harleston.	4. Bungalows.	"